

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 01230 180402Z

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7634

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FOR INR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: FIJI PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. SUVA PRESS HAS ALMOST DAILY CARRIED INTERNATIONAL PRESS SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF RECENT TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS, AND THE FIJI TIMES RAN EDITORIAL JULY 15 ENTITLED "SOVIETS SHOW HOW THEY HIT FREEDOM". EDITORIAL COMMENTED ABOUT REGIMENTATION OF THOUGHT AND CONDUCT UNDER A COMMUNIST REGIME AND COMPARED IT WITH FREEDOM TO SPEAK OUT IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY WHICH IS SO OFTEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED. EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH ADMONITION, "WE ARE SOMETIMES CARRIED AWAY BY THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF TOTALITARIAN COUNTRIES. BUT LET THE MOSCOW TRIALS REMIND US WHAT COMMUNISM IS: IT IS A RUTHLESS AND INHUMAN SUPPRESSION OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT. THE GAOLING OF GINSBURG AND PETKUS GIVE US A GLIMPSE OF ORWELL'S 1984".

2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE GOF OFFICIALS HAVE NOT MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT TRIALS. AS PERMANENT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JIOJI KOTOBALAVU TOLD AMBASSADOR, FIJIANS FIND TRIALS

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REPULSIVE BUT DON'T MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT. JIOJI SAID USSR IS NOT THE ONLY HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR AND MENTIONED UGANDA, SAUDI ARABIA AND PAKISTAN AS EXAMPLES OF OTHER REPRESSIVE REGIMES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT A COUNTRY WHICH CONDUCTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS IN THE PACIFIC VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS BY VIOLATING THE ENVIRONMENT. JIOJI WENT ON TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE USSR IS PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE BECAUSE IT USES THE MACHINERY

OF STATE, ITS COURT SYSTEM, TO PERPETRATE VOLATIONS, WHAT JIOJI
CALLED A "TREAVESTY OF JUSTICE."

3. COMMENT: FIJI TIMES DOES NOT HAVE A LARGE EDITORIAL PAGE
BUT CARRIES ONE EDITIRIAL EACH DAY WHICH USUALLY CONFINES IT-
SELF TO LOCAL EVENTS. SELDOM IS THERE COMMENT ON INTERNATIONAL
EVENTS UNLESS IN REACTION TO SOME STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME
MINISTER. FACT ALONE THAT THE TIMES BOTHERED TO COMMENT IS
THEREFORE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE.
CONDON

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Message Attributes

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